



Our Pastures Community Garden – 2025 Highlights



Visiting and Volunteering

- The Community Garden is open from 8am to 4pm, seven days a week when anyone can visit.
- There's usually a small group of our core volunteers at the garden on Saturday mornings from about 10.30am to 2pm if you want to volunteer or just drop in to have a chat.
- Volunteering is restricted to Saturdays between the hours of 11am to 2pm as it needs to be supervised by one of the Core Group of volunteers so our garden design plan is kept to and we have knowledge of what has been planted and where. We communicate on our WhatsApp group to organise the volunteering so it's best to join our WhatsApp "Pastures Community Garden Volunteering Group". Please click on the link to be added to the group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/L00U1wOOwEvDJF0U9kiZdL>
- You can volunteer as much or little as you want. It's great if you are a gardener but you don't need any gardening experience, just enthusiasm. The aim is to have fun and meet local people too !
- From time to time, we set up free workshops for volunteers who wish to learn about plants, fruit trees, composting, biodiversity etc.. You are welcome to attend if you wish. The Workshop dates and any events are posted on our WhatsApp Group above.
- We make our own compost in compost bays we built and mix in coffee grounds from the site café.

2025 Key Events and Achievements

2025 has been another busy and productive year in the garden. The following pages give a monthly photographic record of our achievements which include:

- New pond platform – Funding from Groundworks London and Council approval has been obtained. Works have commenced and are due to complete in early 2026.
- February - A community Wassail Event was held including planting tree whips, installation of a second small pond, Wassail procession and drinking mulled apple juice.
- May / June – Flowers and Fruit
- September – Part of the sitewide London Open House Event with community picnic and family activities
- October / November – Removal of collapsed fence and bramble clearance at pond platform site. Waltham Forest Council permission obtained for new pond platform
- December – Santas Grotto and garden lighting for Community Children



2025 MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2025

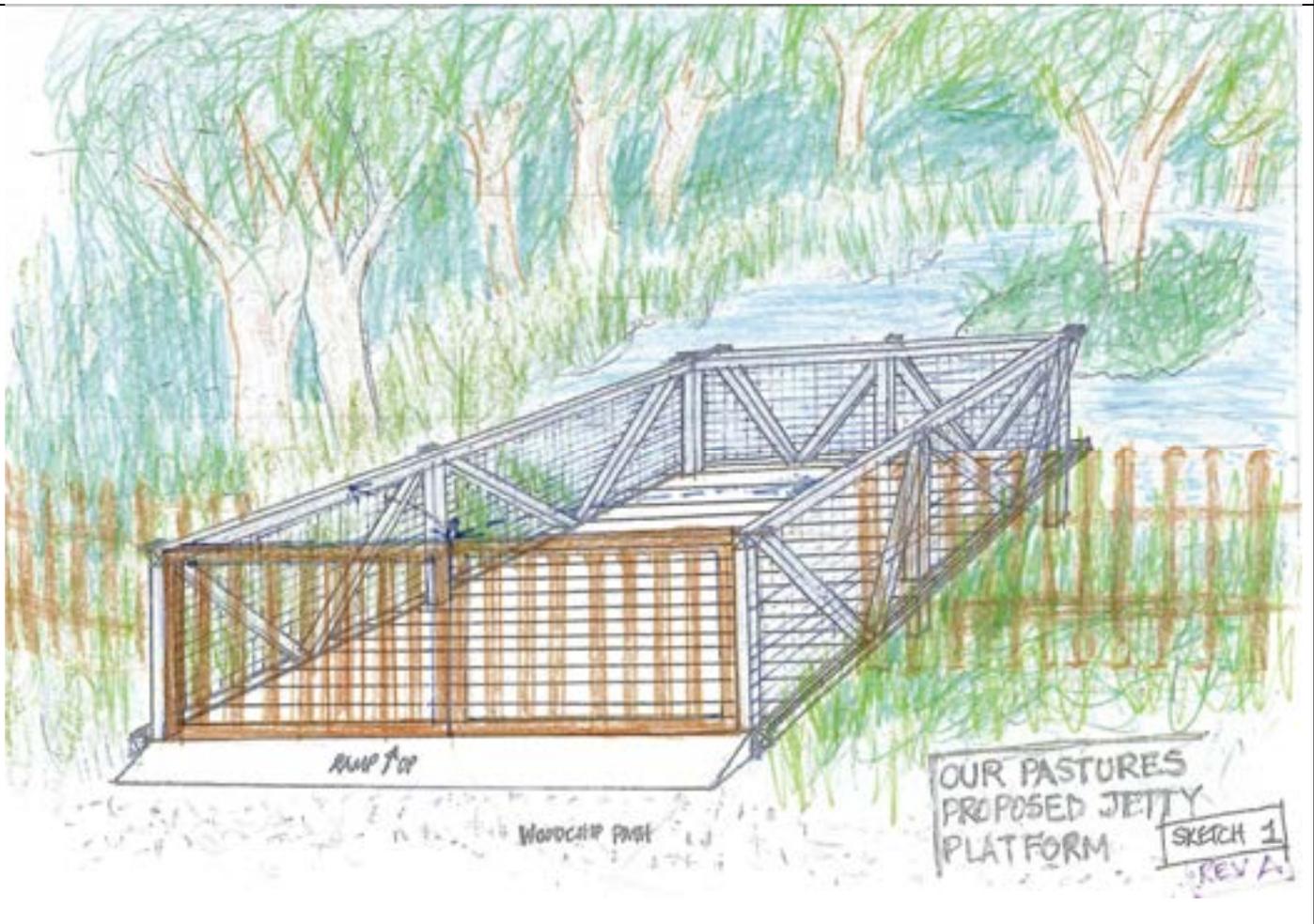
Large pond full of water



Replenishing woodchip from street tree pollarding to our paths and volunteer area



Proposed Pond Platform illustration - Groundworks London Funding Application with Organiclea





FEBRUARY 2025

Annual Wassail for the community – Masks, planting Tree Whips and noisy procession



Installing a second small pond behind bike store and pond filling at Wassail



Autumn crocus or meadow saffron

Purple toothwort plant (*Lathraea clandestina*) emerging from the ground

Common Snowdrop flower (*Galanthus nivalis*).



Crocus *tommasinianus*

Sweet Violet (*Viola odorata*) flower.





MARCH 2025

Ducks on large hidden pond which will be visible from proposed new platform when built



Red Admiral

Seven Spot (Common) Ladybird

New Wormery





APRIL 2025

**Batman hoverfly
(Myathropa florea)**



**Drone fly
(Eristalis sp.)**



**Kidney-spot Ladybird
(Chilocorus renipustulatus)**



**Nursery Web Spider
(Pisaura mirabilis)**



**Parent Bug
(Elasmucha grisea)**



**Rhopalus subrufus, known as
the scentless plant bug.**



View towards garden entrance



June's London Marathon my way finish



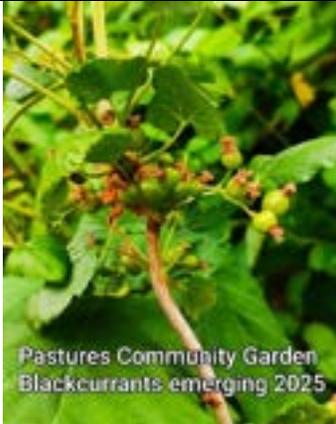
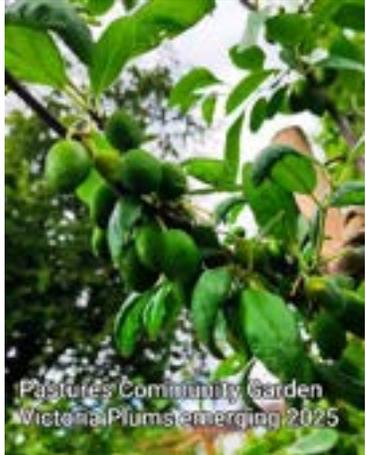
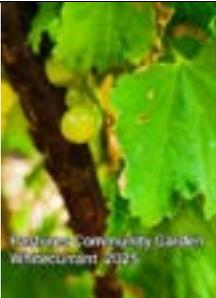


MAY 2025

Bearded Iris, likely the 'Indian Chief'		Heuchera Alabama Sunrise	Spanish Bluebells (Hyacinthoides hispanica)
			
Canary Bird Rose	Forget me nots	buff-tailed bumblebee (Bombus terrestris)	crimson-purple 'Hansa' rose
			
Cow Parsley	Front Flowerbed		Salvia microphylla
			
Dead Hedge for Brambles			
			



JUNE 2025

<p>Redcurrants</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Redcurrants 2025</p>	<p>Bleackcurrants emerging</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Blackcurrants emerging 2025</p>	<p>Chuckleberries emerging</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Chuckleberries emerging 2025</p>
<p>Crab Apples emerging</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Crab Apples emerging 2025</p>	<p>Conference Pears emerging</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Conference Pears emerging 2025</p>	<p>Marchant Cherries</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Marchant Cherries 2025</p>
<p>Quince emerging</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Quince emerging 2025</p>	<p>Egremont Russell Apple emerging</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Egremont Russell Apple emerging 2025</p>	<p>Vitoria Plums emerging</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Vitoria Plums emerging 2025</p>
<p>Whitecurrants</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Whitecurrant 2025</p>	<p>Raspberries emerging</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Young Raspberries emerging 2025</p>	<p>Worcester Apples emerging</p>  <p>Pastures Community Garden Worcester Apples emerging 2025</p>



JULY 2025

Marmalade Hoverfly



Gatekeeper butterfly (*Pyronia tithonus*)



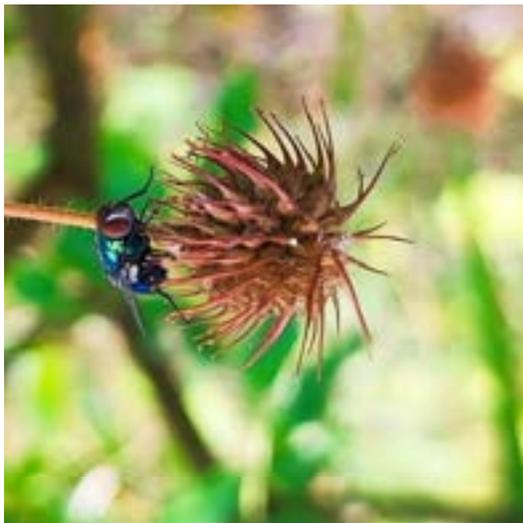
Shield Bug



Hoverfly



Bluebottle



Large pond dried up





AUGUST 2025

View from pond showing area to be cleared for Pond Platform



Bottom of dried up pond



Robins visiting the volunteer area





SEPTEMBER 2025

Open House – Community Garden Information



Open House – Face Painting



Open House – Folk Music



Open House – Children's Theatre



Open House – After Party





OCTOBER 2025

Removal of collapsed fencing	New opening made at Pond Platform site
	
Common and Glistening Inkcap Mushrooms	Deer Mushroom (<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>)
	
Fairy Ring Champignons (<i>Marasmius oreades</i>)	Redlead Roundhead (<i>Leratiomyces ceres</i>) mushroom
	



NOVEMBER 2025

Leytonstone Councillors' Support for the Pastures Site & Pond Platform



Clyde Loakes

November 14, 2025 · 🌐

...

It was lovely to pop down to the fantastic Good Shepherd Studios and Pastures Community Garden yesterday with [Jenny Gray](#).

We visited the fantastic 'Communi- Tea' Project run by the inspiring Jessica Green.

'Communi- Tea' is a free social, creative and well- being session for the over 50's, every Thursday- 2- 4.30pm-, that we have helped fund with our Leytonstone Community Ward Funding. We took part in the 'Chair Yoga' part of the afternoon- yes I was wearing red socks- which was certainly something new for me, although Jenny seemed like a natural!

It was very well attended, with some great spirit and Communi-tea banter on full display!

Check out the link below for more details and why not pop by next Thursday?

<https://jessicagreen.net/playgrowdo#new-page> 🌐

Clyde also managed to catch up with one of the Pastures Community Garden champions and pioneers- Tony Lobo. The timing couldn't have been better, as we had received some really positive news earlier in the day.

Tony and his fellow volunteers have totally transformed the space that is referred to as the 'Pastures Community Garden' and it is a joy and pleasure to visit- a total assault and inspiration of the senses and a critical nature recovery 🌱🌿🍄 project in Leytonstone.

That positive news was that the final hurdle- whether building control had an 'interest'- regarding the plans for a viewing platform into the pond area, had been cleared. Myself, Jenny and Marie Pye have supported the Pastures Community Garden from the outset, and have been pushing for a decision on the platform, so that Tony and the fantastic volunteers involved in the Pastures Community Garden can get on with delivery.

You can see some pictures of the plans below and what a similar platform in Rainham Marshes looks like. The platform will be constructed with recycled plastic 'lumber'.

Fingers 🙌 crossed that the long awaited platform and the opportunities it will create for further nature recovery 🌱🌿🍄 engagement and participation at this literal 'oasis' will be completed in time for the Spring.

'Communi- tea'. The Pastures Community Garden and of course the Good Shepherd Studios are fantastic adverts for the 'art of the possible' and why we think Leytonstone is simply the best neighbourhood in Waltham Forest, if not the world 🥰!

Enjoy your weekend.

Yours

Clyde, Marie, Jenny

Materials delivery for Pond Platform



Late fruits, new funghi and pond water returns





DECEMBER 2025

Santas Grotto Entry



Path to Santas Grotto



Reindeer at Santas Grotto



Santas Grotto Archway



Santa doing his job



Community Party in the Pastures Centre



Party catering staff on duty





Our Key Aims for the next few months

- **Plan and agree our garden events and dates:**
 - **Wassail – February ?**
 - **Pond Platform opening – February/March ?**
 - **Bio-Blitz – February/March ?**
 - **Open House (With whole of Pastures Site) – September**
 - **Halloween ?**
 - **Christmas – Santas Grotto and FARA party**
- **Doing general garden maintenance, weeding, pruning, top up woodchip paths etc..**
- **Reviewing our biodiversity action plan and agreeing projects/events for volunteers and the local community to take part in**
- **Complete the Pond Dipping Platform build**
- **Installing a suitable water supply within the garden area**
- **Installing an electrical power supply within the garden area**
- **Developing and installing information signs for the garden**
- **Volunteer visits to other local community gardens**
- **Training sessions with our partners, Organiclea and The Orchard Project**